

Cocaine

Street terms for cocaine: blow, nose candy, snowball, tornado, wicky stick¹

What are the different forms of cocaine?

- White crystalline powder
- "Crack" or "rock" cocaine is an off-white chunky material.

How is cocaine used?

- Powder cocaine is generally snorted or dissolved in water and injected.
- Crack cocaine is usually smoked.²

Who uses cocaine?

- Cocaine is the second most commonly used illicit drug in the United States.
- About 10 percent of Americans over the age of 12 have tried cocaine at least once in their lifetime, about 2 percent have tried crack, and nearly one percent is currently using cocaine.³

How does cocaine get to the United States?

- The United States-Mexico border is the primary point of entry for cocaine shipments being smuggled into the United States.
- Organized crime groups based in Colombia control the worldwide supply of cocaine.⁴

How much does cocaine cost?

- Cocaine prices depend upon the purity of the product.
- In 2001, cocaine purity declined by 8 percent, from 86 percent pure in 1998 to a 78 percent pure in 2001. The decrease in purity indicates a decrease in the supply of cocaine in the United States.⁵
- Cocaine remained low and stable, which suggests a steady supply to the United States.
- Nationwide, prices ranged from \$12,000 to \$35,000 per kilogram.⁶

What are some consequences of cocaine use?

- Cocaine is powerfully addictive.⁷
 - Smoking crack can cause severe chest pains with lung trauma and bleeding.⁸
 - The mixing of cocaine and alcohol create cocaethylene while increasing risk of sudden death.⁹
 - Cocaine-related deaths are often a result of cardiac arrest or seizures followed by respiratory arrest.¹⁰
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- 1 Office of National Drug Control Policy, Street Terms: Drugs and the Drug Trade.
- 2 National Institute on Drug Abuse, Infobox: Crack and Cocaine, October 2001.
- 3 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Summary of Findings from the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, September 2001.
- 4 Drug Enforcement Administration, Drug Trafficking in the United States, September 2001.
- 5 Drug Enforcement Administration, STRIDE Report, August 2002.
- 6 Office of National Drug Control Policy, Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse, November 2001.
- 7 Office of National Drug Control Policy, Drug Facts: Cocaine, May 2002.
- 8 Drug Enforcement Administration, Drug Descriptions: Cocaine.
- 9 National Institute on Drug Abuse, Infobox: Crack and Cocaine, October 2001.
- 10 Office of National Drug Control Policy, Drug Facts: Cocaine, May 2002.